

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: DETECTIVE FARRAH EDGE (FE), P# 8645

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE M. SCLIMENTI (MS), P# 6239, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1603 hours. Also present are Detective K. Ploense (KP), P# 6269, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Ramirez (MR), P# 9057.

MS: This is Detective Sclimenti P# 6239 with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Farrah Edge. Her P# is 6- I'm sorry, 8645. Her call sign is PD-73. Her date of hire is [REDACTED] She works at the South Central Area Command as a patrol detective. Her RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Her hours are 1430 to 0030. Her vehicle number on the night in question is gonna be 4050 in an unmarked pickup truck. This interview is reference to an officer involved shooting and a shooting that occurred on October 1, 2017 at 2208 hours in the area of the Mandalay Bay Casino located at 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las

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Vegas, Nevada 89119. Today's date is October 3, 2017 and the time is 1603 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters located at 400 South Martin Luther King Building C, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. Also present is PPA Representative Michael Ramirez P# 9057 and Detective K. Ploense P# 6269 with the Force Investigation Team. Hey, Farrah, are you aware this interview is being recorded?

FE: Yes.

MS: Okay, before we get started, um, on October 1 of 2017, uh, what LVMPD uniform were you wearin'? Could you please describe it to me at the time?

FE: I was wearing plain clothes 'cause I was working in a detective capacity.

MS: And can you describe some of those items, uh, of clothing you were wearin'?

FE: Um, I had a button down shirt on similar to what I have on now and black pants.

MS: What, um, gear or, um, were you wearin' a duty belt or handcuffs, magazines? Can you describe me what items you were wearin'?

FE: Uh, I was wearin' a regular belt just as - as part of my regular...

MS: No, just...

FE: ...clothing that I had on or when the incident happened?

MS: During the incident.

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FE: Uh, I had on a regular belt, my duty weapon, a pair of handcuffs, an extra magazine, and then I had on a tac vest with department patches on it, police, uh, detective. And then I had extra magazines for both my rifle and my duty weapon on that.

MS: Were you wearin' a helmet or anything?

FE: Yes.

MS: Okay and your weapon, uh, it was a Glock 21. Your mod- I'm sorry, your model's 21. The caliber is a .45 caliber and the serial number was [REDACTED] is that correct?

FE: Uh, I believe that serial number's correct, yes.

MS: Okay, so let's just focus your attention on the incident that occurred October 1, 2017 at approximately, uh, 2208 hours. Can you just tell me, um, in your own words the details of what you learned and how did you learn about the call?

FE: Um, I was in the office in our office at South Central at the time and my partner, Jesse Berg, came into the office and he said, "I think that there is an active shooter. There was just radio - radio traffic that there was an active shooter at Mandalay Bay." Uh, and shortly after that then, uh, everybody turned on their radios or turned them up and we could hear radio traffic startin' to come out about a shooting that was occurring. So I ran and grabbed my gear. Jesse went and got the truck. Threw my gear in his truck and we took off for Mandalay Bay. Um, when we got over there, uh, we went around to the area of the entry towards Shark Reef, um, which I kinda guess is on the south - situated on the south - southeast side there. Um, met up with

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Sergeant Bitsko. Sergeant Matchko was there and my squad, uh, which was Steve Tripis, uh, Verl Conover, myself, and Jesse Berg. Uh, Steve had, uh, he had al- he already had a shield that I think he got from Sergeant Bitsko but I'm not positive about that. And then, uh, we formed up and started goin' in to the hotel. Um, we worked our way up to the security podium which was in towards the casino and Sergeant Bitsko, um, asked Jesse to stay, uh, or go to the security office so he remained there. There were other officers there that formed up with us and we, uh, went to the elevator area. Um, a maintenance guy came over and was able to activate 'cause the elevators were shut down already. Um, he activated one of the elevators for us 'cause at that time we weren't exactly certain where the suspect was. Uh, and they - they were saying maybe the 29th floor or the 32nd floor but we weren't sure so we went up to the 29th floor initially. Got out onto that floor and then shortly thereafter they said that, uh, the suspect was actually on the 32nd floor they had discovered because the security officer was shot on that floor. So we worked our way up the stairwell up to the 32nd floor, uh, and came out in, uh, you have to forgive me 'cause I'm not sure the...

MS: Okay.

FE: ...direction of that particular wing. We weren't initially in the wing where - where the suspect was. We were in the wing - I don't know if that would be to the north. I know that wing - his wing faced out onto the Boulevard. We were in the wing that went kinda to the north or northeast - northwest I mean.

MS: Okay.

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FE: Um, so we came out. Initially we could see people down the hallway. We didn't know that there were already, uh, officers in the suspect hallway. Maintenance and a security officer saw us so they came down to us and they said, "Hey, we have keys so you can gain entry to these rooms if you need to." Um, and then they said, "But there's, um, another team already made it up here and they're in the hallway down there." So we just ran down to the center. Um, I posted up on the left side of the hall - suspect hallway and, uh, I could see that there were already some officers down the hall staged down there. Um, Matchko, uh, there was someone prone out in the hallway. I don't know who that was. I never did figure out who it was - an officer. 'Cause initially we thought it was somebody down in the hallway. We didn't know where the security guy was, uh, that had been hit.

MS: Oh.

FE: So we were yellin' to the person in the hallway to get out of the way, um, and they weren't hearing us or something 'cause they didn't move. So Matchko low crawled up the hallway and then after that we pretty much were just staged there. There was, uh, another officer that I think he had been on, um, traffic control outside when the incident started and he made his way up with us. And I don't know his name but he was standin' across from me. And then, uh, Verl Conover was with me but he went down the - another hallway trying to get people out of their rooms and send them down the staircase on the other end. And other than that it was pretty much trying to figure out information about what had happened with the security officer. And there were no more shots fired. I never heard any shots fired when we got there, none.

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And then the maintenance people told us that the shots pretty much had stopped after the security guard was shot. They, uh, they had made their way up because the c- the security officer told them that, uh, he was trying to get into the stairwell door on that floor. And I don't know why he went up there originally. They just said that he had relayed to them he was trying to get in that stairwell door and he couldn't because it was secured and he didn't understand why. And then he thought that he could hear someone drilling on the other side of the door. And, uh, so he made his way around and got into the hallway and apparently the suspect saw him in the hallway and shot through the door and hit him. And right about that time the, um, other security and maintenance personnel were coming up to see what was happening. And then he's bailing out of the hallway at that time, shot. And then they realized what's happening and then the calls - they started making calls about that's there's a shooter here.

MS: Okay.

FE: Um, other than that officers were kinda just coming up, makin' their way around. The one group that was already down the suspect hallway, um, started maneuvering through the rooms trying to clear people out and as people came out of those rooms we were sendin' them down the - the other hallway down to the stairwell to get out.

MS: Okay and then what happened n- next?

FE: Um, the first SWAT guy came up. Uh, it's the guy that was just out here. I don't know his name. Is it Hancock? Um, he came up first and he started asking about

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what was happening and the person laying prone out in the hallway and he maneuvered his way up to, uh, try to talk to that person. And then after that I'm not sure where exactly he went but I know he wound up at the suspect door and ended up breaching that door eventually.

MS: Okay and - and where were you at dur- during this time?

FE: The whole time I was...

MS: At...

FE: ...pretty much staged in the - there's the circular area in between the three wings...

MS: Okay.

FE: ...um, and I was there, uh, posted on the left side of the suspect hallway.

MS: Okay and then did you see him breach it or were you - from a distance or what...

FE: Once he - I was tryin' to maintain every once in a while a line of sight down there but I knew that I wouldn't ever be able to shoot down the hallway with other - other officers down there. So when he said, "Everybody get back. Get back. I'm gonna breach," then I just backed - everybody backed away from the hallway. And then the explosion happened and there was smoke everywhere and set off the fire alarms the doors shut for, uh, like, the elevator hallway has the automatic doors and the wings so they started shutting and there was an announcement.

MS: And what did you do next?

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FE: Just remained there, uh, tried to maintain eye contact 'cause every once in a while people would pop out of rooms so we'd either have them go out - depending on what hallway they were in have them go out down to that end stairwell and go down or just shelter in their room and shut the door.

MS: Okay.

FE: Once it all calmed down then we cleared all of the rooms in those other two wings to make sure everybody was out of those rooms - cleared them out.

MS: Did, like, evacuations, right?

FE: Yes.

MS: Did you ever go up towards the room? The...

FE: I went up to the door. I never went into the room.

MS: And was that after it was...

FE: After it was all done. Hancock was still there. Uh, he told, um, oh by that time there's more, you know, more people came. More SWAT guys came and, um, there were other officers I know that went into the room but, uh, he had Steve Tripis and Craig Conover from my squad just hold security on the door after that.

KP: Yes, uh, I got a question for you. So you said you didn't take the elevator all the way to the 32nd? You took it to...

FE: We didn't initially...

KP: ...29th?

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FE: ...because we weren't sure where he was at that point.

KP: Okay, so how did you get to the 32nd then, stairs or el...

FE: We went up the stairwell.

KP: The stairwell n- not...

FE: In the....

KP: ...by the suspect, uh...

FE: No.

KP: ...room?

FE: No - nope, we came up, uh...

KP: A different wing sorta?

FE: ...that - yeah, that - that wing that I'm guessin' it goes to the north. It kinda angles to the north - northwest.

KP: Northwest? Yeah.

FE: We came up that stairwell.

KP: Okay.

FE: Because of the officers actually booted the - 'cause we didn't know at that time where exactly he was on the...

KP: Yes.

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FE: ...32nd floor until they came down. So, uh, one of the officers actually booted the suite door right there because we were right next to the suite on that wing.

KP: Okay, yeah.

FE: And he booted it, sear- they checked that room, and then it - right then is when security and maintenance came down there like, "Hey, we've got keys so you can get in these doors but the suspect's down here."

KP: Okay.

FE: So then we ran down the hallway.

KP: So they're the ones who booted that door then? We were tryin' to figure that out last night.

FE: Yeah, it was an officer...

KP: Okay.

FE: ...that was with us and I don't know his name.

KP: Not a big deal. Was just - we're kind of tryin' to figure out who booted this door and why last night.

FE: Yeah, because...

KP: Oh okay.

FE: ...we weren't certain at that time...

KP: Okay.

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FE: ...where exactly he was.

KP: So you thought it's possibly the suite that he was...

FE: We were - yeah.

KP: Okay.

FE: We weren't sure where he was at...

KP: Okay.

FE: ...at that point.

KP: Cool. Also the guy prone'd out in the hall, was he in the middle of the hallway, the guy prone'd out? And he was - was he facin'...

FE: Kinda off to the right, uh, to- towards a wall but he was layin' in the floor...

KP: And he was...

FE: ...prone'd out.

KP: ...facing suspect...

FE: Facin' suspect...

KP: ...room?

FE: ...door.

KP: Okay - okay.

FE: He was about halfway down.

KP: Okay, that's all I had.

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MS: And how many people were in your little element that you went up there with? Do you remember?

FE: Uh, we got split up and it was Matchko and I and, uh, I think Burns - Jacoby Burns was with us and I don't know the other - the officer who booted the suite door, I don't know his name at all. I had never seen him before.

MS: So a team of four from what you remember?

FE: It was four or - four or five of us together.

MS: Is there anything else that I didn't ask you or that you can help, um, provide to us that could help in this investigation? Uh, any other information that you remembered?

FE: Mmm, just when I was up by the door I saw a - I saw that there was a camera on the tray - on the, uh, push tray outside the door I presume that suspect put on the tray. I know he had cameras. I heard after the fact that he had cameras, uh, in there and outside but there was a camera on the food tray. Ta- somebody had put a plate over it to cover it so it wasn't filming.

MS: Okay, all right, I, uh, I don't have any other questions, uh...

MR: Transcription, it's Mike Ramirez real quick. Uh, Farrah, just a couple follow up. At no time you entered the room, correct?

FE: None.

MR: And at no time you discharged your firearm?

FE: I did not.

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MR: Mmm, that's all I have.

MS: Okay, you have any? Uh...

FE: Oh and I, uh, did I say - I had my rifle on me. Did I tell you...

MS: No.

FE: ...that before? Okay, sorry.

MS: That's okay.

FE: I had my department rifle on me.

MS: Okay and you're wearing your tac vest and your helmet and your police...

FE: Right.

MS: ...badges? Okay, any time did you discharge your department weapon...

FE: No.

MS: ...or rifle? Okay, I don't have any other questions. Detective Ploense, you have any other questions?

KP: No.

MS: All right, at this time, the interview will end. Again it's, uh, October 3, 2017 at 1618 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1618 HOURS.

MS: KP: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032

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Reviewed by S6878M
10/08/17